

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 861
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to declare that racial profiling by law enforcement officers is contrary to public policy in the state of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are dedicated to the fair and equitable treatment of all persons regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion; and

WHEREAS, the term "racial profiling" has come to mean the practice of using race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion as the primary factor in deciding who is subject to law enforcement investigations; and

WHEREAS, racial profiling is unconstitutional and not an effective use of law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, there has been in recent years a growing national awareness of instances of racial profiling; and

WHEREAS, some individuals have from time to time alleged instances of some Tennessee law enforcement officers practicing racial profiling; and

WHEREAS, throughout the year 2001 in Tennessee, thirty-seven (37) municipal police departments, six (6) county sheriff's departments, and one (1) university police department voluntarily participated in a racial profiling study, and the results of that study were compiled by the comptroller of the treasury and reported to the Tennessee General Assembly in March, 2002; and

WHEREAS, many state officials and many law enforcement leaders recognized that this study brought attention to the problem, helped to identify areas where additional education and training are needed in regard to racial profiling, and in general, contributed to a better understanding of the concerns of racial profiling among law enforcement officers, public officials, and the public in general; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly seeks to continue the progress made in the past regarding the elimination of racial profiling; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF THE TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that all law enforcement agencies in Tennessee that have yet to undertake a study of possible racial profiling practices in their departments are encouraged to conduct such a study as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all law enforcement agencies in Tennessee are encouraged to provide anti-racial profiling training for their officers on a continuing basis.